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W A R C A B I N E T.

RECRUITMENT OF JEWISH UNITS FOR GENERAL SERVICE IN
THE BRITISH ARMY.

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for War.

1. On 13th and 18th September, 1940, I interviewed Dr. Weizmann on the subject of his proposal to raise Jewish units for general service in the British Army, and we agreed on the arrangements set out below.
2. Dr. Weizmann will recruit 10,000 Jews for incorporation in Jewish units in the British Army. Not more than 3,000 of these will be drawn from Palestine. The remainder will be drawn from America or wherever else Dr. Weizmann can recruit them.
3. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has made it plain to Dr. Weizmann that each Jewish recruit must produce a guarantee that he would be accepted by his country of origin after the war. Dr. Weizmann accepted this condition.
4. These Jewish units, including their officers, will be trained in the United Kingdom, the officers being selected by Dr. Weizmann or his representative. Dr. Weizmann has asked that it be made plain that it is the present intention of His Majesty's Government to send the Jewish units to the Middle East if the strategical situation at the time permits. No guarantee can, however, be given as to the theatre in which the force, when trained and equipped, will serve.
5. Equipment will be provided by His Majesty's Government, as and when their resources permit.

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The cost of the equipment and maintenance of the force, and its pay and allowances, will be borne by His Majesty's Government, though Dr. Weizmann hopes to obtain gifts from the United States as a contribution towards the cost. The actual rates of pay are at present under discussion with Dr. Weizmann.

6. The contingent from Palestine, as and when it is recruited, will be brought home in shipping returning empty after disembarking reinforcements in the Middle East.

7. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has expressed his agreement with these arrangements, and is informing the High Commissioner for Palestine and Trans-jordan. I am informing the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.

8. I ask the War Cabinet to give approval to these arrangements.

A.E.

THE WAR OFFICE,

8th October, 1940.